

The Brookeville Times

March 2007

Election of Two Commissioners in May

On May 8th the Town will hold an election for two commissioners. The two positions are those currently held by Rick Allan and Bob Heritage. You will soon receive more information in the mail regarding this important event

State Highway Administration Work in Town

SHA District 3 surveyors have been working along High Street on the High Street (Georgia Avenue) sidewalk project. SHA District 3 staff has informed the Commissioners that planning work for the project is on track to be completed during the summer. The Town has been working on bringing this "partnered" project to fruition for several years but has faced problems of funding and the increased costs of dealing with storm water runoff that had affected several household along High Street as well as the 300 Block of Market Street. In the latter instance, storm water runs down from High Street across the Salem UMC parking lot and then back on to Market, causing yard erosion and house basement flooding. At the direction of the Commissioners, SHA engineers and consultants have been trying to design fixes through sidewalk design and engineering that would mitigate these problems to the extent possible. We will be getting more updated information soon as to design, materials, location, and coordination issues. At the appropriate time, there will be a meeting with affected residents to fully inform them and get feedback.

Work on Powers' Woods Park Has Started

The Town Commissioner and the Planning Commission collaborated in the selection of Slater & Associates, Inc. to design the new Power's Woods Park. John Slater presented his design concept at the March 12th Commissioners meeting for feedback and discussion. Attending was the Chair of the Planning Commission and two other members, Town staff, and the press. Following a productive exchange of ideas, Slater will incorporate the feedback and formalize the design. Work will probably be done in phases to accommodate budget considerations. The Commissioners did give the immediate go-ahead to put in place a mini-stone amphitheater at the base of an existing rock outcropping as well as to select stone for "steps" from the end of Water Street to the wood chip pathway. With the help of heavy equipment already on the site, developer Richard Kirby, John Slater, and Rick Allan collaborated on the placement of the stone and the orientation of several parking slots for the schoolhouse.

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Improvements to the Academy and Grounds

The Commissioners also selected Bradley Site Design to develop a landscape concept and planting program for the Brookeville Academy grounds. Sharon Bradley will do a four-phase sequence of work including site analysis, concept preparation, design development and finally prepare detailed plans for the Commissioners. We will then phase in the beautification of the grounds.

Faulty Security Alarm Wakes up the Town

Many of you heard the alarm and the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department units responding to the Academy twice recently. There was no fire - just a malfunctioning security alarm system - the exterior horn. Seimens Building Technologies, our security, fire, and sprinkler alarm systems servicer has been called to fix the problem so that it doesn't recur. They had been working on the alarm systems during the prior week. The fire department and the Commissioners are notified immediately of all alarm situations by telephone as they occur by the Town's alarm monitoring service. We regret the lost sleep and share your pain.

Thomas Mill Project Work Completed by MCCC

The Montgomery County Conservation Corps work crew has done substantial clearing work on the foundations and other surviving parts of the historic Thomas Mill site adjoining the WSSC sewage pumping station. Additionally, most of the Thomas Mill Race from Market Street to Georgia Avenue was cleared for the first time. The Town intends to develop a trail and nature walk along the mill race to tie into the trail system being developed at the Powers' Woods Park. Some very large downed trees over the mill race will be cleared in the near future. The work, done in extremely cold and snowy conditions over several weeks in February by the hardworking young men and women corps and the equipment used by the Corps was provided pro bono. It otherwise would have cost in excess of \$15,000. Rick Allan will speak to the graduating members of the MCCC at a March 22 ceremony and present a silver Brookeville Bicentennial coin to the top worker.

Two Accidents Cause Damage in Town

There were two vehicular accidents recently that damaged Town property. In January an intoxicated driver in a pickup truck destroyed one of the Town ornamental streetlights on Market Street. Due to the prompt action of town residents, including Commissioner Bob Heritage, the police arrested the driver and obtained insurance information. We have notified our insurance company of the incident and a replacement light has been ordered.

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In another incident, a large truck “missed” the turn at High and Market Street and proceeded up Water Street. When he realized his error, the driver backed up and destroyed one of the Water Street trees. Fortunately, alert residents obtained the name and license number on the truck. We are waiting for an estimate from our landscaping contractor for the amount to be recovered from the trucking company.

Lights Out in Town - PEPCO Notified

A number of overhead streetlights in town are currently out. PEPCO has been notified to replace them. PEPCO has been having a problem with the number of outages they have to deal with (see the attached Winter Issue of PEPCO’s “Community Focus.”) Town Clerk Paul Geib is the point of contact regarding street lights that are out.

What Happens When it Snows

The Town has two contractors to deal with snow "pushing" and related issues. One contractor has appropriate equipment and salt/sand to deal with town streets - Church, Water, North and South when snowfall reaches four inches. The contractor is advised to attempt keep plows up enough not to damage gravel surfaces. That is not always possible where ice/snow combinations exist. Our other contractor is a town resident Mark Ennes and his company, Liberty Lawns. Mark's responsibility is the front of the Brookeville Academy and associated sidewalks. High Street of Rt. 97 is the responsibility of the SHA. East Market Street - Brighton Dam Road is normally plowed and sanded/salted by Montgomery County or its contractors. Sidewalks are the responsibility of residents. In severe storms we have used our main contractor to supplement what the County or State can't do.

Streets Maintenance Status

East Market Street has deteriorated increasingly over the years. The Commissioners, acting as the "Brookeville Public Works Department", have previously attempted to fill potholes and curb area erosion with the Home Depot variety readymix asphalt patch and gravel but between the severe conditions of commuter traffic, water runoff erosion, and the product itself, our efforts have been valiant but with little success. A better product has been found and will be ordered to provide temporary fixes. We had explored professional patching and the price was prohibitive. Longer term, we are putting together a plan for rehabilitation of the road along with new standard curbs and aprons where needed. As the road was never properly rebuilt after water and sewer was installed by WSSC in the early 1970's, the work will not be cheap. It is necessary however. We are exploring financing through a State infrastructure bonds program that offers low interest rates.

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We expect to be able to finance the project with our State Highway User's formula funds. We would note that we were fortunate to get the excellent repaving of High Street and part of west Market Street by the State after we complained about the conditions of the pavement. This takes on importance as the Town will probably take over this stretch of Rt. 97 when the bypass is constructed.

Deeds Wells Fund - Contributions Still Accepted

We are still accepting contributions to the Deeds Wells fund. If you are interested in contributing, please send your check to the Town address printed below, and note on your check, "Deeds Wells Fund."

Town of Brookeville
P.O. Box 67
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President of Commissioners	Rick Allan	301-774-6206
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Commissioner	Michael Acierno	301-260-2897
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Town Web-site: www.townofbrookevillemd.org

Rent the Beautiful Brookeville Academy at 5 High Street in Brookville (Route 97 or Georgia Avenue, two miles north of Olney). Visit our Web-site or call us for more information.